

In the course of the years the Rambler has written of the vine-grown houses of Washington and in the time that these sketches and reminiscences have been appearing in the Star he has published pictures of many of these houses.

The vines of the capital are not so noteworthy as the trees, but the vine growth of Washington is at least notable. A long time ago the Rambler wrote: "Washington is being covered with vines. This bit of information may be received by many persons with a sense of wonder, but it is a simple statement of fact. If the vines that grow in the National Capital could be untangled and spun in one green thread, that thread could be looped around the globe. The vines will be a quartet of a century hence, scarcely a hair well in the city."

There was some extravagance in that prophecy and though the vines have done their best to trim the town with green, they have been prevented through no fault of theirs. It is not that they lacked industry or the ambition to climb. If they could have their way they would weave a wreath around every home in the city. To a vine a bare wall is a thing to be hidden from the sight of man. But vines, like men, cannot all have their own way, and cannot always follow their bent and sweet will. The vines which grow in the city have been checked by growth and labor are torn down that new and vineless houses may be built in their place.

Perhaps the vine gods said that so much of its work and care have been spent in such an unfortunate house, but undisturbed and undisturbed it will proceed at once to the work of embracing the new house with its green and charm. Here and there a householder will cut away a vine. It may seem a heartless thing to do after a vine has been trained to its green and charm. Here and there a householder will cut away a vine. It may seem a heartless thing to do after a vine has been trained to its green and charm.

climbing in every city and village in the United States.

Once, the Rambler made what might be called a census of the houses in Washington which this vine veils. Of late years it has been spreading its green mantle over part of the marble terrace of the Capitol.

In Washington are many noteworthy examples of the wistaria which makes a gorgeous purple display in its season, which is early spring. Last Sunday the Rambler made photographs of two of the distinguished wistaria houses in Washington, one on the west side of Dupont Circle, between New Hampshire avenue and 14th street, and the other at the northeast corner of Massachusetts avenue and 11th street.

The Dupont Circle house is of green stone and the house at the intersection of Massachusetts avenue, 11th and L streets, is a well preserved frame with a two-story porch and fluted pillars at the front. Its front is nearly hidden under the foliage of wistaria and the trunk of the vine are as thick as the trunks of good-sized trees. In the case of the Dupont Circle house the vine has been trained to frame the windows, instead of covering them, and in spring it bears its blossoms not only along the cornice of the three-story and basement house, but also along the roof and to the top of the parapet which rises from the roof.

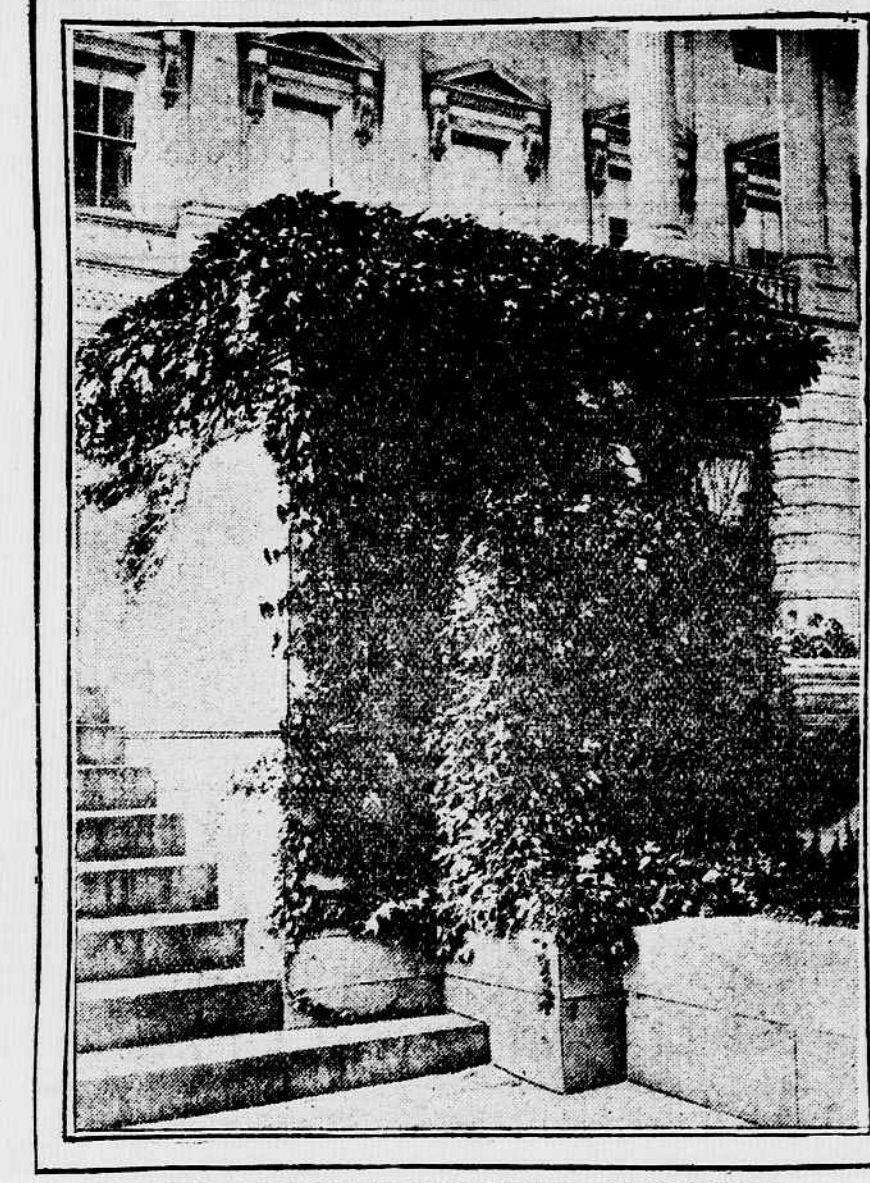
But, whatever its shortcomings or its discouragements may be, the vines of Washington have out-thrived—or perhaps it should be written "out-thriven"—any green tree that ever thrives. Ivy in Washington is not content when it "creeps" over ruins old but will find "right choice food" and a "merry meal I wend," not in "its cell so lone and cold," but it will go after a new brick wall with relish.

However, ivy and social aspirants are not the only climbers in Washington. There are vines of all kinds, and they climb by means of leaf tendrils, the trumpet vine which climbs by means of round tendrils, and the clematis creeper that climbs by branch tendrils, grape, smilax, honeysuckle, grandifolia, hop, ivy, and many kinds of roses.

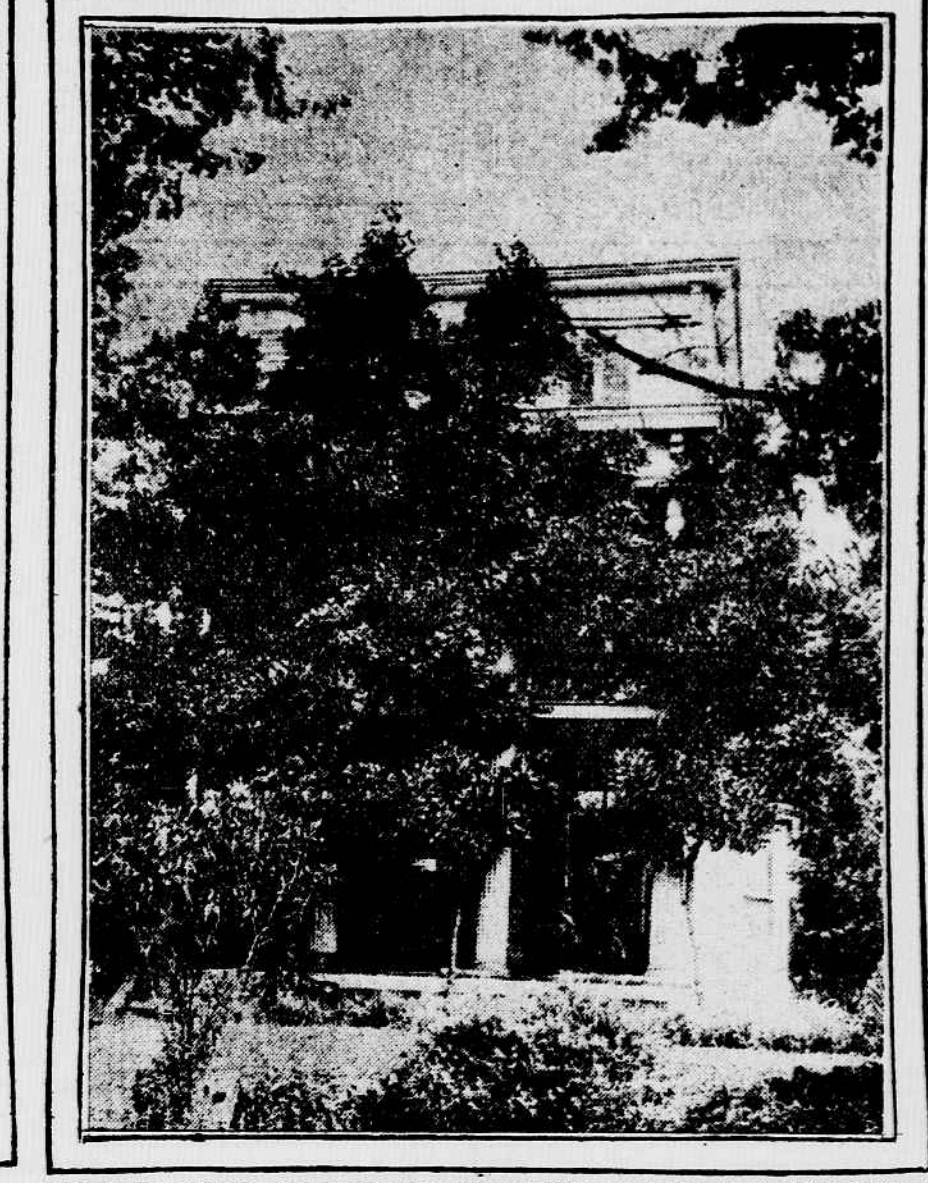
The vine which covers the greatest wall space in Washington is the "southern ivy," or *Empetrum vitifolium*, a vine which climbing for untold centuries in China and Japan was introduced into England, where it entered into competition with English ivy and managed to get its share of wall space. Major General Lee, who owned a vine over half a century ago, a cutting of this vine was brought to Washington by the late William B. Smith, then superintendent of the Botanic Garden. He brought the cutting from the town of Slough, a place not far from Windsor Castle. This vine is growing in the Botanic Garden and the Rambler has written its life story and has taken its pictures. It has been cuttings and millions of packages of seed have been taken from this venerable vine and sent throughout the United States. It is probably the ancestral vine of all the southside ivy vines in Washington and of millions upon millions of such vines that are



WISTARIA HOUSE ON DUPONT CIRCLE.



VINES GROWING ON THE CAPITOL APPROACHES.



WISTARIA HOUSE, CORNER MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE AND 11TH STREET.

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## Woman Supervised the Distribution of Twelve Billion Stamps Last Year

Miss Margaret Kerfoot, Chief of the Stamp Packing Department of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Tells of Her Work. She Packs 25,000,000 Postage Stamps a Day—The Precautions Taken Against Theft—Special Demand for the New Panama Stamps in San Francisco—The Stamp Output More Than Doubles During the Chief's Stay in One Department.

TWELVE billion stamps! This is the size of last year's stamp business handled by the bureau of engraving and printing. Quite a large order, you say? Well, rather, the largest ever.

Yet the size of the order is not the most important thing about it. Not at all. The amazing feature is this: the entire work of drawing the stamps, balancing the separate orders and shipping them was carried on under the supervision of a woman, and, thanks to this woman's efficiency, without a single discrepancy.

Miss Margaret Kerfoot, chief of the division which fills and ships orders to the 64,000 post offices throughout this country, is the efficient woman in the case.

She has been working in the bureau of engraving and printing for thirty-two years, and though the figures of last year's stamp output and her record-breaking infallibility are startling enough to deserve especial mention, she may, nevertheless, be found any day in her huge basement office of the bureau's new building on the Speedway, filling stamp orders with a remarkable aversion to error. This year's record, as well as last's, it may be said, has not been marred by a mistake.

Her record for perfection is a matter of pride, not only to herself, but also to Director Ralph of the bureau, who praises her in this wise:

"Twelve billion stamps form a shipment of size impossible to conceive. It

is stupendous—shall I say?—and yet the separate orders, numbering many thousands, were made up and shipped without a single mistake in any of the accounts. Take any mail order house or dry goods store in the country, which conducts retail business in comparison to Uncle Sam, and you will, therefore, have relatively less opportunity for error, and see if it can approach our record."

"You'll not find such a record anywhere. It is one of which we are justly very proud. Miss Kerfoot is the mainpring of a division which works without error, and I say this because I know she is too modest to say it herself."

Then down to Miss Kerfoot's office went the interviewer. She was found in a large shipping room, full of workers and with a warehouse atmosphere, and she was asked to tell about the great shipment of stamps, numbering